

# (12) United States Patent

Sekine et al.

### US 6,898,959 B2 (10) Patent No.:

(45) **Date of Patent:** May 31, 2005

### (54) LUBRICANT APPLYING SYSTEM FOR A ROLLING BEARING

(75) Inventors: Masaaki Sekine, Kanagawa (JP);

Katsuyoshi Yamashita, Kanagawa (JP);

Michiharu Naka, Kanagawa (JP)

Assignee: NSK Ltd., Tokyo (JP)

Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

Appl. No.: 10/849,247 (21)

(22)Filed: May 20, 2004

(65)Prior Publication Data

US 2004/0211241 A1 Oct. 28, 2004

## Related U.S. Application Data

Continuation of application No. 10/225,296, filed on Aug. 22, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,755,071, which is a division of application No. 09/471,232, filed on Dec. 23, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,477,885.

#### Foreign Application Priority Data (30)

	25, 1998 (JP) P. 10- 1. 8, 1999 (JP) P. 11-	
	<b>Int. Cl.</b> <sup>7</sup> <b>G01N 27/00</b> ; F01M <b>U.S. Cl. 73/10</b> ; 73/865.8; 18	84/6.4;
(58)	Field of Search 73/10, 865.8; 18	40/631 84/6.4; 40/631

#### (56)References Cited

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,048,236 A	8/1962	Larke et al.
4,152,598 A	5/1979	Stewart
4,256,591 A	3/1981	Yamamoto et al
4,284,174 A	8/1981	Salvana et al.
4,527,661 A	7/1985	Johnstone et al.

4,738,336 A 4/1988 Smith et al. 4,788,932 A 12/1988 Kullman et al.

# (Continued)

# FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP	62-106 196	5/1987
JP	64 46011	2/1989
JP	5 149343	6/1993
JP	8 303467	11/1996
JP	411264723 A	9/1999
SU	3943191	12/1986

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Bicycle Maintenance, Home and Garden Television, http:// www.hgtv.com/HGTV/project/0.1158, **BDRE** 29041,00.html.

Primary Examiner—Michael Cygan (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Sughrue Mion, PLLC

#### (57)**ABSTRACT**

In a lubricant application system, a prescribed volume of lubricant is transferred from a lubricant discharge port 8 of a prescribed liquid volume discharge device to a rolling element 703 of a rolling bearing 700 in a state in which the lubricant discharge port 8 is positioned directly above and sufficiently close to the rolling element 703, whereby the lubricant is applied to the interior of the rolling bearing 700. Further, the application system inspects whether or not a prescribed volume of lubricant is injected from the discharge device for injecting a lubricant into the interior of a rolling bearing 700. A laser beam  $L_1$  is irradiated between a lubricant discharge port 8 of the lubricant discharge device and the rolling bearing 700, and a reflected laser beam L<sub>2</sub> reflected by the lubricant when it is discharged from the lubricant discharge port 8 is received by a photoreceptor 116 disposed on the optical axis of the reflected laser beam L<sub>2</sub>, whereby whether or not the lubricant is applied to the rolling bearing 700 is determined based on an output from the photoreceptor 116.

# 8 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

